

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 3-6, and 8 are currently pending in the present application, with Claims 1 and 3-6 being amended, and Claim 8 being added. Reconsideration and reexamination of the claims are respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-3 and 5-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Midiman Delta DiO 2496 User's Manual (Reference U). This rejection is moot with respect to the canceled claims and respectfully traversed with respect to the amended claims.

The present invention is directed to a method and apparatus for signal processing, wherein a sound signal inputted into an apparatus, such as a digital mixing console, is monitored for any possible clipping or unacceptable level at multiple points of the signal path, wherein the clipping or unacceptable level may be caused by operations such as tone control or fader operation along a signal path before it is finally outputted from the apparatus. For instance, as illustrated in Fig. 2 of the present application, a sound signal is monitored at METER in 1-1, 1-2, and 1-3 for determining whether the input sound signal at each of the serially designated point exceeds a predetermined value that may have been caused by one of the devices/operations, and if so an alarm is displayed. By monitoring and allowing adjustment of signal characteristics along multiple points of multiple signal paths, a technician can more quickly identify a signal path, from a plurality of signal paths, on which clippings or like problems occur, and determine the cause of clippings or like problems along the signal path and accordingly adjust the responsible device or operation so as to compensate for the problem.

Reference U does not contain any disclosure or suggestion for monitoring multiple sound signals along different signal paths, wherein each signal is subject to being adjusted by various adjusting devices on the signal paths. Rather, Reference U simply discloses monitoring the input

levels of separate sound signals for separate channels (mixer input faders), and allow for adjustment of the sound level of the combined output signal (master output volume). Reference U does not disclose anything additional to what was already admitted as prior art in the Background section of the present application. Applicants respectfully submit that Reference U does not teach or suggest monitoring a sound signal at multiple metering points that are arranged in series along the signal path, wherein the signal is subject to be adjusted by adjusting devices at adjusting points arranged in between the adjacent metering points (Applicants note that, although the adjusting points are distinctly claimed, they may nevertheless exist very closely to one another). Furthermore, Reference U also does not teach or suggest synthesizing sound signals from different signal paths using a bus device, wherein each signal have been monitored at plural metering points. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1, 3, 5, and 6 are not anticipated or obvious in view of Reference U.

The Examiner rejected Claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reference U. This rejection is respectfully traversed in view of the amendment to the claims.

As discussed above, Reference U does not anticipate or make obvious amended Claim 1. It follows that dependent Claim 4 is also not anticipated by, or obvious in view of, Reference U for the reasons stated above.


New Claim 8 has been added to further claim details of the present invention, and is respectfully submitted as in condition for allowance.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and reexamination of the amended and added claims are respectfully requested, and an early allowance is solicited. If it is determined that a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. 393032029800. However, the Assistant Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

  
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